



### **Northeast Ohio Outreach:**

Since the beginning of 2014 the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has held 11 minority contractor outreach events in northeast Ohio that either solicited public comment regarding the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program or worked to match minority contractors with prime contractors or assisted minority businesses in becoming qualified to do work with ODOT.

### **OPPORTUNITY CORRIDOR: Construction Cost \$267 million.**

The purpose of the Opportunity Corridor Project is to improve the transportation system and support planned economic development in the areas between I-490/I-77 and University Circle in Cleveland. The area between I-490 and University Circle includes a part of Cleveland known as the “Forgotten Triangle” due to the lack of economic activity. Aside from the transportation benefits it could bring to this part of Cleveland, this effort opens the potential for new economic development, new jobs and a new identity for the community.

### **OPPORTUNITY CORRIDOR: Community Benefits Area**

Through the public involvement process residents of the area expressed the need for jobs and job training so those living in the community could work on the project. The project has committed **\$500,000** to Ohio Means Jobs for on-the-job training, which is estimated to train approximately 80 residents. In addition to this commitment, four residents will be given 8,500 hours of on-the-job training on the project itself. There will also be five “community ambassadors” hired to reach out to the community and identify and assist those who are interested in job training. Finally, at least 20 percent of the project workforce must be residents within the Opportunity Corridor project area.

The project has also committed **\$500,000** to the Kenneth L. Johnson Recreation Center expansion plans. This money will be used for improvements at the center. Additionally, the original plans for the path of the Opportunity Corridor were adjusted to mitigate impacts to the neighborhood and recreation center plans.

### **Pilot Project Requirement for Disadvantaged (DBE) and Minority (MBE) Businesses**

The Federal Highway Administration has agreed to allow ODOT to pilot a new small and disadvantaged business participant’s program that will divide the DBE goal based on ethnic populations.

#### **The goal will be as follows for the entire \$267 million Opportunity Corridor project:**

African American owned companies      8.5% of \$267 million = \$22.7 million

Hispanic owned companies      1.5% of \$267 million = \$4 million

Asian and Native American      1.5% of \$267 million = \$4 million

owned companies

All other certified companies      8.5% of \$267 million = \$22.7 million

**Overall Project Goal      20% of \$267 million = \$53.4 million**

**THE OHIO JOBS & TRANSPORTATION PLAN: Up to \$3 billion for Ohio’s highways:** With \$1.5 billion from new bonds—issued by the Ohio Turnpike Commission and backed by future Turnpike revenues—an additional \$1.0 to \$1.5 billion can be generated from matching local and federal fund to generate as much as \$3 billion for major Ohio transportation projects. The Opportunity Corridor project is funded primarily with Turnpike money.